GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
LIFE SAVING DRUGS
BASUDEB ACHARIA;MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): Name of indigenous companies in public and private sector producing life saving drugs;

(b): the rate of increase in prices of life saving drugs during each of the last three years, in each brand of drug, separately;

(c): the details of demand and supply of such drugs; and

(d): the steps taken to improve their supply position?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE)

(a): The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make adistinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. Life saving nature of the drugs depends upon a particular situation and circumstances. A large number of companies (approximately 8000) including small sector and organized sector units (public sector as well as private sector) are producing drug formulations in the country.

(b): A study, for the period from December, 1994 to December, 1999, of 1615 medicines which had an annual retail sale value over Rs. 1 crores in December, 1999, indicated that the prices of 522 medicines had increased up to 25%, 404 medicines from 25% to 50%, 284 medicines from 50% to 100% and 87 medicines over 100%. During the same period, the prices of 318 medicines had decreased.

(c) &(d): In general, there are no shortages of drugs in the country. However, whenever, shortages are reported, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority takes immediate remedial measures.